

## Looking back on 2015 — and ahead to 2016

Officials bid a fond farewell to yet another year of highlights for Loganville and set their sights on an even better 2016.

As the new year gets under way, the Loganville Council welcomes Linda Dodd as its newest member and bids a fond farewell to Mike Jones, a past mayor who recently ended his 12th year on the council.

Also in 2015, Loganville officials said goodbye to longtime municipal judge Brad Brownlow, who served the city for 35 years.

On the technology side, Loganville officials have updated and improved the online bill payment site for water bills which includes stored accounts and account history. The city also revamped its web page, [www.loganville-ga.gov](http://www.loganville-ga.gov), and its mobile app, which in addition to government-related activities provides a means for residents to report potholes, graffiti, flooding and more through the See-Click-Fix response form. More information is available on the home page.

The city also renewed its contract with the Co-derED system, which is an emergency notification



system residents can sign up for and be alerted about weather and other possible emergencies as well as upcoming events.

Loganville officials are also setting their sights on the future, having purchased seven pieces of property in and around the downtown area. Expect to see more purchases in 2016 and plans for a revamping of downtown in 2016.

While the Fiscal Year 2016 budget was set at \$9.9 million for the general

fund, a slight increase over the previous year, the Loganville Council approved a millage rate of 10.18, which represented a 0.09 decrease over 2014. This was a result of an increase in many property values across town.

And finally, the annual Groovin' on the Green concert series, as well as the annual Fourth of July and Christmas parades, continued to grow and be successful with even more planned for the community in 2016.

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# Johnson is city's first POST certified fire investigator

Loganville Fire Department Capt. Tim Johnson recently completed 408 hours of training and on Dec. 18 obtained his certification, making him the city's first Peace Officers and Standards Training certified fire investigator.

Johnson completed his 12-week basic law enforcement mandate training through the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Athens.

"It was probably the hardest thing I've ever had to do," he said. "The hardest part was that it was both mentally and physically challenging. I think at 39 years old it might not have been the most ideal thing to do — although I don't think it matters what age you are, you will not be prepared for OC spray (pepper spray) training. But I am glad I went through it and I think it will help the city."

Johnson said while he has been through the state's arson training courses, he felt there was more to be learned as far as constitutional rights and criminal procedures as they pertain to state laws and improve upon the training and knowledge he already had.

Johnson has been a firefighter for more than 20 years, beginning his career with the Loganville Fire Department as a volunteer. After working for some time with the Walton County Fire Rescue, he returned to the Loganville department in 2007. Johnson was promoted to lieutenant on Truck 15 before eventually accepting a position in the city's Fire Marshal's Office, currently serving as captain and assistant fire marshal.

Johnson works to review fire and life safety building plans for new construction or renovations inside the city, inspects existing busi-



nesses for code compliance, educates the public on current state and local codes and standards as well as investigates fires to determine the cause and origin.

Johnson was bestowed with a statewide honor in 2014 as the Georgia Fire Sprinkler Association named him the group's Official of the Year.

## Growth in Loganville | Permits issued by the Planning and Zoning Department on rise

Loganville is continuing to see steady growth as the city's Planning and Zoning Department reported increases in most areas between 2014 and 2015.

In the realm of dollars and cents, Loganville officials increased the amount to be collected from permitting fees in the Fiscal Year 2016 budget to \$200,000 while it was a mere \$50,000 in the previous fiscal year. That was because in the first 10 months of Fiscal Year 2015, the Plan-

ning and Zoning Department had generated \$179,000.

Growing from the 180 total permits issued in 2013 and 244 in 2014, the City of Loganville issued more than 412 different permits in 2015. Among those were 90 for new single family construction, an increase over 75 in 2014 and a mere 24 permits issued in 2013. The department also handles permitting required for a variety of construction — from accessory structures and decks to remodels and swimming pools.

Another testament to the growth of Loganville from the department can be seen in the number of building inspections that were conducted, which grew from 1,088 in 2014 to 3,264 in 2015.

The number of business licenses issues inside city limits also grew from 1,109 two years ago to 1,132 last year.

The sole decrease in the workload for the Planning and Zoning Department came in the number of code enforcement cases, which declined from 349 in 2014 to 153 in 2015.



# Brand Road leads 2016 project list

Orange traffic barrels and heavy construction equipment alongside Highway 78 on the western side of town are the visual signs of a more than \$1 million project to improve the intersection of the highway at Brand and Old Loganville roads.

According to Public Utilities Director Autron Hayes, the city will be using SPLOST funds to help cover its share of the project, with Gwinnett County also contributing to the project. Construction, which began in November, is scheduled to be completed in June.

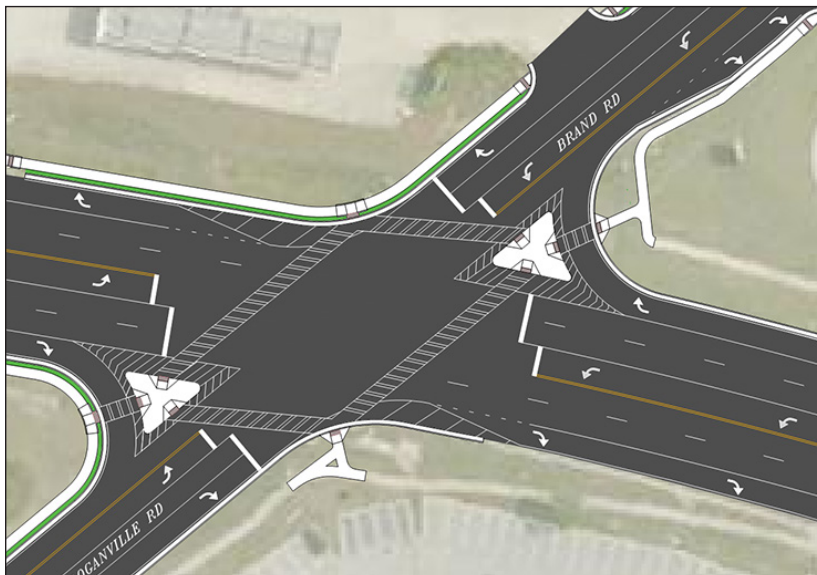
The project will entail the addition of right and left turn lanes for both Brand and Old Loganville roads as they approach Highway 78. Flashing yellow arrows will be added for left turns from Highway 78 onto the secondary roads.

The project will also include concrete sidewalk, curb and gutter, storm drainage im-

provements, widening of the roadway as well as paving and striping at the intersection.

Two months into the project, the utilities have been relocated and construction remains ongoing along the east and west corners of the intersection. A right turn lane has been graded and the aggregate base put into place on Highway 78 heading west in front of the Racetrac gas station. Other work includes proposed storm sewers on the west corner of the project having been installed with additional curb and gutter work to begin in January. Traffic device installation is scheduled for February and final paving should begin in April.

Other work around the city includes the addition of a left turn lane on south Highway 20 into the Huntington Ridge subdivision and coming work includes intersection improvements of Highway 81 and Highway 20.



## Treatment plant upgrades

Loganville's Water Quality Control facility is being expanded and retrofitted to meet the needs of future generations.

The department is in the middle of a \$4.8 million expansion that will replace obsolete equipment and introduce new technologies designed to produce even cleaner effluent water via ultra-fine screening, high rate filters and improved bio-solids dewatering that will increase the plant's overall efficiency.

The plans also include the addition of a new two-story building for administrative offices for the department.

Loganville Water Quality Director Chris Yancey said that after the completion of this initial phase of improvements there will be two additional future phases of expansion to prepare the facility for a future with an eventual maximum capacity of 5 million gallons treated a day. Currently the facility is permitted to discharge up to 1.75 million gallons per day of treated water into the Big Flat Creek, with a second permit allowing for an additional 250,000 gallons to be sprayed per day on 40 acres of irrigation fields near the plant, located at 4895 Highway 81 on the northside of town. Upon completion of the current retrofit updates and the two additional expansion phases planned, the Big Flat Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant will be able to meet Loganville's future needs.

Plans for the expansion initially began in 2007 but officials cooled to the idea as the economy began to take a downturn. The project was brought back to life recently and since received a \$3 million boost through a loan from the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority. The rate on the five-year loan is 0.51 percent. Loan funds have allowed the project to move forward as additional funding comes in from the Walton County Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, from which leaders allocated a portion of funds to cover the project.

The project broke ground on July 2015 and is expected to be completed this August.

# SAVE the DATE

**W**hen the City of Loganville formally dedicated the Ray Nunley Pavilion at the Town Green in 2013, it was followed by an announcement of a three-show concert series.

Born was the Groovin' on the Green concert series.

City officials are still putting the finishing touches on the 2016 lineup but have the first four performances lined up. The concert series will open up May 20 with the Beatles tribute band The Return. On June 17 the Legacy Motown Revue will take the stage and on July 15 the band will be Too Much Sylvia, who offer a wide variety of music samplings to bring attendees to their feet. Aug. 19 will see the return of The Embers to the Loganville stage, with more to come on the Sept. 16 and Oct. 21 shows.

All show times are at 7:30 p.m.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available. To inquire about this or to learn more about the concert series, email [kpeters@loganville-ga.gov](mailto:kpeters@loganville-ga.gov).



## 2015 ends on bright notes with Donut Dash, Shop with a Hero

**T**he Loganville Police Department continues to be busy, as the number of calls for service was up 4 percent through November when compared to 2014. But nothing could stop officers from doing their part in two big community outreach efforts: the third annual Donut Dash and ninth annual Shop with a Hero.

The annual Donut Dash had runners lining up on Nov. 7 at Loganville High School. The event was born out of the idea of Chief Mike McHugh and Assistant Chief Dick Lowry putting their heads together on how to do more to provide help to the community beyond the usual calls for service.

The idea of a race jumped to the forefront

and utilizing the stereotype of police officers and doughnuts, the fundraiser was born.

While the police department at the time was already involved in being heroes with the annual Shop With a Hero event, they wanted to serve as heroes to another group in the community. It was decided that the Walton County Special Olympics would be the benefactor of the funds raised. This year the 5K generated \$6,300 for the nonprofit.

On Dec. 5, more than 125 children were given the opportunity to brighten up the holidays for their family and get to meet some of the area's true heroes. The children were given a gift card and paired with a "hero" from either the Loganville police or fire

departments, the Walton County sheriff's or fire departments, other law enforcement personnel as well as military personnel.

The event continues to grow each year both in the number of local children helped as well as the troves of volunteers who not only help with the shopping experience but also wrapping the gifts and treating the parents and volunteers to light refreshments.

The local Shop With a Hero event was first started by McHugh and Church at the Grove Pastor Russ Butcher. Funds are raised through donations from the church as well as fundraiser from the Loganville police and fire departments as well as local businesses and civic organizations.

## About The Loganville Bulletin

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